

applying the solid composition according to claim 2 into a submerged paddy field, a farm, a facility, or a non-cultivated area.

21. (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein the solid composition is wrapped with a water-soluble film or a water-dispersible film.

22. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the solid composition is in the form of a powder or granulate and the particle size of the fragments is 0.2 mm or less.

23. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the particle size of the fragments is 0.2 mm or less.

24. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the particle size of the fragments is 0.05 mm or less.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are active in the present application. Claims 1-13 have been amended for clarity and to remove multiple dependencies. Claim 12 has been amended to limit the particle size of the oil carrier. The amendment is not intended to further limit Claims 1-11. Support for the amendment is found on page 8, paragraph 31. Claims 14-24 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. Support for new Claims 23 and 24 is found on page 18, paragraph 31. The specification has been amended to correct obvious typographical or clerical errors. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants thank Examiner Clardy for the helpful and courteous discussion of February 25, 2003. During the discussion, Applicants' U.S. representative pointed out that

the Examples in the present specification evidence that the claimed compositions containing, for example, insecticides are more effective and longer lasting in their performance properties than compositions not containing the claimed fiber fragments.

The composition claimed in Claim 1 includes one or more agricultural chemicals and fragments of a fiber crop. Such a composition is useful, for example, for applying one or more agricultural chemicals to a surface such as a cultivated field. The composition offers advantages including a high concentration of the agricultural chemical, easy pulverization, easy delivery (i.e., release) of the agricultural chemical to the environment and excellent environmental performance (page 5, lines 6-9). Unlike inorganic carriers such as zeolites and clays, the fragments of a fiber crop of present Claim 1 are biodegradable and can disappear (page 5, lines 19-20).

The enhanced delivery of the agricultural chemical after application of the claimed composition is demonstrated by Test Example 1 on pages 34 and 35 of the specification. As is shown in Table 1 on page 35 (this table is reproduced below for convenience), the claimed composition is able to provide much higher insect death rate four days after application in comparison to Comparative Example 1 which is the same as Example 1 except that white carbon is used in place of the fiber crop fragments. The Example data tabulated below evidence that a composition comprising fragments of a fiber crop and one or more agricultural chemicals can provide significantly superior activity of the agricultural chemical even two or four days after its application.

sample formulation	amount of chemicals treated (kg/10a)	days after applying (releasing)	death rate of insect (%)		
			on the day of the application	2 days after the application	4 days after the application
Example 1	4	2 days after 4 days after	97 100	87 97	57 83
Example 12	4	2 days after 4 days after	100 100	83 97	73 87
Comparison 2	4	2 days after 4 days after	97 100	23 40	3 10
Non treatment area	0	2 days after 4 days after	0 7	3 0	0 3

Applicants traverse the Office's assertion that the presently claimed invention is obvious in view of Sugiyama.¹ The Sugiyama compositions are not described as useful for applying or distributing an agricultural chemical over a surface such as a cultivated field. The Sugiyama composition is described as useful for removing materials such as volatile organic solvents and radioactive elements from the environment (see Abstract). The function of the Sugiyama composition is contrary to the function of the presently claimed composition which is used to deliver (i.e., disperse) agricultural chemicals over an area rather than absorption from the environment.

Although the Office asserts that the Sugiyama invention may include insecticides, Applicants note that the embodiment of the prior art insecticide-containing composition is in the form of a laminate (column 11, line 64). Applicants submit that "insecticide sheets" (column 12, lines 1-2) are not distributed over a cultivated area to release an agricultural chemical, but are rather used at a single location for attracting and killing insects. Sugiyama is non-analogous art since some aspects of the structure (i.e., laminate sheet) and function (i.e., removal of chemicals) of the prior art composition are not the same as the claimed

¹The Office has asserted that the present claims are obvious in view of the combination of patents to Hansen (U.S. 5,589,256) and Sugiyama (U.S. 6,372,333).

invention. How could one of ordinary skill in the art turn to the disclosure of Sugiyama as inspiration to prepare a composition that is used for distributing an agricultural chemical over a wide area when Sugiyama describes compositions disclosed as useful for point source removal of chemicals (i.e., odors) and insects?

The composition of the present invention may be pulverulant or granulated (see new dependent Claim 23). How can the pulverulant solid composition of Claim 23 be obvious in view of the insecticide-containing laminate of Sugiyama?

Hansen describes compositions wherein a particle is bound to a fiber (column 2, lines 34-36). It is stated that “the invention is to provide improved fiber and absorbent products in which particulates are *firmly bound* to cellulose fibers such that the particles are less likely dislodged by mechanical forces” (column 2, lines 43-46; italics added). Hansen therefore favors compositions where the particulate is firmly bound to the fiber.

The compositions of Hansen have particles bound to a fiber with a polymeric or non-polymeric binder (column 3, lines 42-44). No such binder is required in the presently claimed compositions.

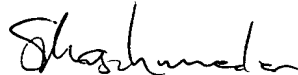
Hansen may be non-analogous art. Hansen describes a method and binders for adhering a particular material to a fiber. Hansen does not describe methods for dispersing an agricultural chemical over an area. The list of particulates for binding (Table 1 of Hansen) includes materials as diverse as sunscreen agents, estrogen and antacid, in addition to herbicides and insecticides, etc. Hansen is attempting to solve the problem of particulate/carrier binding whereas the presently claimed invention provides solid compositions (which are made from a liquid chemical or a dispersion of a chemical in a liquid solvent) and methods useful for dispersing the compositions over an area.

Applicants submit the presently claimed invention is not obvious in view of the prior art references relied upon by the Examiner, either individually or in combination, since the prior art references provide compositions that are described as useful in applications for removing an insect or an element from the environment rather than delivering an agricultural chemical to a surface such as a cultivated field. Moreover, the prior art relied upon by the Examiner is non-analogous art to the claimed invention in view of the differences in the structure and function of the prior art and claimed compositions.

Applicants submit the amendment to the claims places all pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and the passage of all now-pending claims to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendment Filed Herewith

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 19 to page 10, line 10 as follows:

Among the agrochemically active ingredient described above, the examples which can be cited in a liquid state at room temperature are a herbicide such as 2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxy-thioacetic acid-s-ethyl (phenothiol), S-(4-chlorobenzyl) N,N-diethylthiocarbamate ([benthioncarb] thiobencarb), S-(2-chlorobenzyl)-N,N-diethylcarbamate (orbencarb), S-benzyl=1,2-dimethylpropyl (ethyl) thiocarbamate (esprocarb), S-ethylhexahydro-1H-azepin-1-carbothioate (molinate), 2-chloro-2',6'-diethyl-N-(butoxymethyl) acetanilide (butachlor), 2-chloro-2',6'-diethyl-N-(2-propoxyethyl) acetanilide (pretilachlor), and ethyl 4-(4-chloro-o-tryloxy) butylate (MCPB-ethyl), a fungicide such as O,O-diisopropyl-S-benzylthiophosphate (IBP), O-ethyl-S, S-diphenyldithiophosphate (EDDP), insecticide such as O,O-dimethyl-O-(3-methyl-4-nitrophenyl) thiophosphate (MEP), (2-isopropyl-4-methylpyrimidyl-6)-diethylthiophosphate (diazinon), dimethyldicarbethoxyethyldithiophosphate (malathion), O,O-dipropyl-O-4-methylthiophenylphosphate (propaphos), 2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-7-benzo[b]flanyl=N-dibutylaminothio-N- methylcarbamate (carbosulfan), ethyl=N-[2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethylbenzoflan-7-yloxy carbonyl (methyl)

aminothio]-N-isopropyl-.beta.-alaninate (benfuracarb),
(RS)-.alpha.-cyano-3-phenoxybenzyl=(RS)-2,2-dichloro-1-(4-ethoxyphenyl) cyclopropane
carboxylate (cycloprothrin), O,O-dimethyl-O-[3-methyl-4-(methylthio)phenyl]thiophosphate
(MPP), dimethylthiophosphorylphenylmethylacetate (PAP), and so on.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 25 to page 13, line 2, as follows:

Further, as an example of a solid agrochemically active ingredient, a herbicide such as
2,4,6,-trichlorophenyl-4'-nitrophenylether (CNP),
.alpha.-(2-naphthoxy) propionanilide (naproanilide), 5-(2,4-dichlorophenoxy)-2-nitrobenzoate
methyl (bifenox), O-3-tert-butylphenyl=6-methoxy-2-pyridyl (methyl) thiocarbamate
(pyributicarb), (RS)-2-bromo-N-(.alpha.,.alpha.-dimethylbenzyl)-3,3-dimethylbutylamide
(bromobuthyde), 2-benzothiazol-2-yloxy-N-methylacetanilide (mefenacet),
1-(.alpha.,.alpha.-dimethylbenzyl)-3-(paratryl) urea ([dimron] daimuron),
methyl=.alpha.-(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidine-2-ylcarbamoysulfamoyl)-O- toluate
(bensulfuron-methyl), 1-(2-chloroimidazo[1,2-a] pyridine-3-
ylsulfonyl)-3-(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidine-2-yl) urea (imazosulflon),
ethyl=5-(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidine-2-ylcarbamoysulfamoyl)-1- methylpyrasol-4-carboxylate
(pyrazosulfuron-ethyl), 2methylthio-4,6-bis(ethylamino)-s-triazine (simetryne),
2-methylthio-4,6-bis (isopropylamino)-s-triazine (prometryn),
2,4-dichlorophenyl-3'-methoxy-4'-nitrophenylether (chlomethoxynil),
5-tert-butyl-3-(2,4-dichoro-5-isopropoxyphenl)-1,3,4-oxadiazorin-2-one (oxadiazon),
4-(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)-1,3-dimethyl-5-pyrazoryl-p-toluensulfonate (pyrazolate),
2-[4-(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)-1,3-dimethylpyrazole-5-yloxy] acetophenone (pyrazoxyfen),

(RS)-2-(2,4-dichloro-m-tolyloxy) propionanilide (clomeprop),
 2-[4-[2,4-dichloro-m-toluoyl]-1,3-dimethylpyrazole-5-yloxy]-4'-methylacetophenon
 (benzofenap), 2-chloro-N-(3-methoxy-2-thenyl)-2',6'-dimethylacetanilide (thenylchlor),
 3-[1-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-1-methylethyl]-2,3-dihydro-6-methyl-5-phenyl-4H-1,3-oxazine-4-on
 e (oxaziclomefone), 3-(4-chloro-5-cyclopentyloxy-2-fluorophenyl)-5-isopropylidene-1,3-
 oxazolidine-2,4-dione (pentoxazone),
 1-(diethylcarbamoyl)-3-(2,4,6-trimethylphenylsulfonyl)-1,2,4-triazole (cafenstrole),
 N-[[[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidine-2-yl)aminocarbonyl]]-1-methyl-4-
 (2-methyl-2H-tetrazole-5-yl) (azimsulfuron),
 methyl 2-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidine-2-yl) oxy]-6-[(E)-1-(methoxyimino) ethyl] benzoate
 (pyriminobac-methyl), 4-(2-chloro-phenyl)-5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-tetrazole-1-carboxylic
 acid-cyclohexyl-
 ethyl-amide (fentrazamide), 3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1-methoxy-1-methylurea (linuron) and so
 on, a fungicide such as 3'-isopropoxy-2-methylbenzanilide (mepronil),
 .alpha.,.alpha.,.alpha.-trifluoro-3'-isopropoxy-O-toluanilide (flutolanil),
 3,4,5,6-tetrachloro-N-(2,3-dichlorophenyl) phthalamid acid (tecloftalam),
 1-(4-chlorobenzyl)-1-cyclopentyl-3-phenyl urea (pencycuron),
 6-(3,5-dichloro-4-methylphenyl)-3 (2H)-pyridazinone (diclomezin),
 methyl=N-(2-methoxyacetyl)-N-(2,6-xylol)-DL-alaninate (metalaxyl),
 (E)-4-chloro-.alpha.,.alpha.,.alpha.-trifluoro-N-(1-imidazole-1-yl-2-propoxyethylidene)-o-tolu
 idine (triflumizole), [5-amino-2-methyl-6-(2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxycyclohexyloxy)
 tetrahydropyran-3-yl] amino-.alpha.-iminoacetic acid (kasugamycin), validamycin,
 3-aryloxy-1,2-benzisothiazole-1,1-dioxide (probenazole),
 diisopropyl-1,3-dithiolan-2-ylidene-malonate (isoprothiolane), 5-methyl-1,2,4-triazole [3,4-b]

benzothiazole (tricyclazole), 1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyrido[3,2,1-ij] chinoline-4-one (pyroquilon),
 5-ethyl-5,8-dihydro-8-oxo [1,3] dioxolo[4,5-g] chinoline-7-carboxylic acid (oxolinic acid),
 (Z)-2'-methylacetophenone=4,6-dimethylpyrimidin-2-ylhydrazone
 4,5,6,7-tetrachlorophthalide (ferimzone),
 3-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-N-isopropyl-2,4-dioxoimidazolidine-1-carboxamide (iprodione), and
 so on, insecticide such as 1-naphthyl-N-methylcarbamate (NAC),
 O,O-diethyl-O-(3-oxo-2-phenyl-2H-pyridine-6-yl) phosphorothioate (pyridaphenthion),
 O,O-dimethyl-O-3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridylphosphorothioate (chlorpyrifos-methyl),
 O,O-dimethyl-S-(N-methylcarbamoylmethyl) dithiophosphate (dimethoate),
 O,S-dimethyl-N-acetylphosphoramidethioate (acephate), ethylparanitrophenylthiono
 benzene phosphonate (EPN), 1,3-bis (carbamoylthio)-2-(N,N-dimethylamino) propane
 hydrochloride (cartap), 5-dimethylamino-1,2,3-trithian oxalate (thiocyclam),
 S,S'-2-dimethylamino trimethylene=di (benzenthiosulfonate) (bensultap),
 2-tert-butylimino-3-isopropyl-5-phenyl-1,3,5,6 tetrahydro-2H-1,3,5-
 thiadiazine-4-one (buprofezin), and so on, and a PGR (plant growth regulator) such as
 4'-chloro-2'-(.alpha.-hydroxybenzyl) isonicotinilide (inabenzide), (2RS,
 3RS)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4,4-dimethyl-2-
 (1H-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl) pentane-3-ol (paclobutrazol),
 (E)-(S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4,4-dimethyl-2-(1H-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl) penta-1-ene-3-ol
 (uniconazole) and so forth can be cited.

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, line 29 to page 25, line 9, as follows:

37.5 parts of [benthiocarb] thiobencarb, 6 parts of MCPB-ethyl, 11.3 parts of
 simetryne, 11.3 parts of mefenacet, 5 parts of isoparaffin, 1.7 parts of

polyoxyethylenestyrylphenylether sulfonate, 0.5 parts of polyoxyethylene alkylphenyl sulfonate, and 1.7 parts of dialkylsulfosuccinate are mixed to obtain suspended liquid matter. Thus obtained suspended liquid matter (specific gravity 0.89) and 25 parts of kenaf fragment (passed through a 2 to 5 mm mesh sieve) are mixed to obtain 100 parts of particulate matter. 40 g of thus obtained particulates is packed into a three-side seal bag (50 μ m: 8 cm \times 12 cm) made of water-soluble polyvinyl alcohol film (manufactured by Nippon Gohsei Chemical Industry Co., LTD.: Hi-selon S-400), and the inlet of the bag is tight-sealed with a heat-sealer (manufactured by Fuji Impulse Co., LTD.) to obtain a jumbo type formulation having a composition of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph at page 25, lines 24-29 as follows:

6 parts of cyhalofop-butyl are dissolved in 25 parts of diisodecyl adipate, and 8.4 parts of cafenstrole, 9 parts of [dimron] daimuron, 2 parts of bensulfuron-methyl, 3 parts of polyoxyethylenestyrylphenylether sulfonate, 1.6 part of polyoxyethylene alkylether sulfonate, 3 parts of lignin sulfonate and 10 parts of methan series hydrocarbon are mixed with obtained suspended liquid matter.

Please replace the paragraph at page 28, lines 24-30 as follows:

50 parts of [benthiocarb] thiobencarb, 3 parts of polyoxyethylene styrylphenylether sulfonate, 2 parts of alkylbenzen calciumsulfonate, 5 parts of kerosine are mixed to obtain liquid matter. Thus obtained liquid matter and 40 parts of kenaf trunk fragment (passed through a 2 to 5 mm mesh sieve: water content = 10%) are mixed to obtained an agricultural chemicals composition of the present invention for a paddy field. The weight of one pellet is 7.1 mg and the apparent specific gravity is 0.4.

Please replace the paragraph at page 32, line 24 to page 33, line 5, as follows:

0.5 parts of bensulfuron-methyl, 4.5 parts of [dimron] diamuron, 2.1 parts of cafenstrole, 1 part of dodecylbenzen sodiumsulfonate, 2 parts of sodium ligninsulfonate, 2 parts of sodium tripolyphosphate, 10 parts of white carbon (manufactured by Shionogi & Co., LTD.), 25 parts of bentonite (manufactured by Kunimine Industries Co., LTD.) and 37.9 parts of calcium carbonate (manufactured by Kunimine Industries Co. LTD.) are mixed. After being kneaded with an appropriate amount of water, it is pelletized with an extruding granulation type pelletizer (manufactured by Fuji Paudal Co., LTD.) equipped with 1.2 mm screen. Then, thus obtained pellets are dried with a midget dryer (manufactured by Fuji Paudal Co., LTD.) while setting the inlet temperature at 90oC, and vacant base pellets are obtained by classifying the pellet with metal sieves of 0.5 mm and 1.4 mm meshes. 1.5 parts of cyhalofop-butyl, 10 parts of tridecyl phthalate and 3.5 parts of iso-paraffin are added to and adsorbed by 85 parts of the base pellet to obtain 1 kg/10 are granule type formulation for the comparison.

Please replace line 6 on page 37 as follows:

*1:[benthiocarb] thiobencarb 150 g + mefenacet 45g + MCPB-E 24 g + simetryne 45 g A.I./10a

Please replace line 7 on page 37 as follows:

*2:[benthiocarb] thiobencarb 150 g + mefenacet 45 g + bensulfruon-methyl 5.1 g A.I./10a

Please replace line 17 on page 38 as follows:

*1:[benthiocarb] thiobencarb 400 g + pendimetharin 40 g + linuron 60 g A.I./10a

Please replace line 18 on page 38 as follows:

*2:[benthiocarb] thiobencarb 200 g + pendimetharin 20 g + linuron 30 g A.I./10a.

Please replace Table 5 on page 40 to read as follows:

sample formulation	area point of sample collection	rate of concentration in water(%)			rate of concentration in soil (%)		
		[benthiocarb] <u>thiobencarb</u>	bensulfouron-methyl	mefenacet	[benthiocarb] <u>thiobencarb</u>	bensulfouron-methyl	mefenacet
Example 9	A	45	59	33	39	28	61
	B	51	66	38	41	27	66
	C	59	68	36	30	30	70
	D	53	61	41	29	33	71
	E	63	69	43	34	20	66
	F	65	80	53	39	25	67
	G	55	73	38	44	19	73
	H	62	78	49	43	25	59
	I	69	83	55	48	26	63
	average deviation	58.0 12.4	70.8 11.1	42.9 17.1	38.6 15.7	25.9 16.1	66.2 6.6
Comparison 6	A	23	66	11	80	30	80
	B	26	63	15	75	18	88
	C	30	55	19	80	19	79
	D	19	69	13	83	25	78
	E	25	70	13	96	40	90
	F	22	53	16	79	27	71
	G	34	50	14	58	21	69
	H	28	59	19	89	38	92
	I	30	61	14	59	18	79
	average deviation	26.3 16.7	60.7 11.0	14.9 17.2	77.7 15.2	26.2 30.1	80.7 9.3

IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) A solid [agricultural chemicals] composition, comprising:

fragments [a fragment] of a [fibre] fiber crop having high oil absorbency; and one or more agricultural chemicals.

wherein at least one of the agricultural chemicals is a liquid [agrochemically active ingredient] at room temperature or a solution or dispersion [liquid matter prepared by dissolving or dispersing an agrochemically active ingredient] in a liquid solvent.

2. (Amended) The solid [agricultural chemicals] composition according to claim 1, wherein the oil absorption capacity of said [fragment of the fibre crop] fragments is 100 or more.

3. (Amended) The solid [agricultural chemicals] composition according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein [said fragment of the fibre crop is] the fragments are obtained by chopping, crushing or pulverizing the [fibre] fiber crop.

4. (Amended) The solid [agricultural chemicals] composition according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein [said fragment of the fibre crop is] the fragments are derived from crushed trunk fragment of kenaf of the genus Confederate rose in the Hollyhock family [(Hibiscus cannabinus Linn./Hibiscus Sabdariffa Linn.)].

5. (Amended) The solid [agricultural chemicals] composition according to [any one of claim 1 to claim 4] claim 1, wherein [said liquid agrochemically active ingredient at room temperature or said liquid matter prepared by dissolving or dispersing the agrochemically active ingredient in the liquid solvent is] the agricultural chemicals or the dispersed or dissolved agricultural chemicals are oil in nature.

6. (Amended) The solid [agricultural chemicals] composition according to [any one of claim 1 to claim 5] claim 1, wherein the solid [agricultural chemicals] composition [includes] comprises 1 to 95 parts by weight of [the fragment of the fibre crop having high oil

absorbency] fragments of fiber crop and 0.1 to 70 parts by weight of the [agrochemically active ingredient] agricultural chemicals.

7. (Amended) The solid [agricultural chemicals] composition according to [any one of claim 1 to claim 6] claim 1, wherein the solid [agricultural chemicals] composition is wrapped with a water-soluble film or a water-dispersible film.

8. (Amended) The solid [agricultural chemicals] composition according to claim 7, wherein [material of] the water-soluble film [is prepared with] comprises a polyvinyl alcohol.

9. (Amended) A method of preparing [a] the solid [agricultural chemicals] composition of claim 1, comprising [the steps of]:

impregnating fragments of a [fibre] fiber crop having high oil absorbency with one or more agricultural chemicals, wherein at least one of the agricultural chemicals is a liquid at room temperature or a solution or dispersion in a liquid solvent [a liquid agrochemically active ingredient at room temperature or liquid matter prepared by dissolving or dispersing an agrochemically active ingredient in a liquid solvent]; and then

making the [above] impregnated fragment into a shape of powder, granule or tablet.

10. (Amended) The method [of preparing a solid agricultural chemicals composition] according to claim 9, further comprising [the step of]:

wrapping the solid [agricultural chemicals] composition [in claim 9] with a water-soluble film.

11. (Amended) A method [for scattering (applying) a solid agricultural chemicals composition], comprising [the step of]:

[scattering (applying) said] the solid [agricultural chemicals] composition according to claim 1 [to claim 8 directly] into a submerged paddy field, a farm, a facility, or a non-cultivated area.

12. (Amended) An oil carrier [for an agricultural chemicals composition],
comprising:

a [fragment] a plurality of fragments of a [fibre] fiber crop having an oil absorption capacity of 100 or more [as an active ingredient] and a particle size of no greater than 2 mm.

13. (Amended) The oil carrier [for an agricultural chemicals composition], according to claim 12, wherein [said fragment of the fibre crop having the oil absorption capacity of 100 or more is] the fragments are crushed trunk fragments [fragment] of kenaf of the genus Confederate rose in the Hollyhock family [(Hibiscus cannabinus Linn./Hibiscus Sabdariffa Linn.)].

14-24. (New).--